

ROCKLAND FINANCE COMMITTEE
ROCKLAND TOWN HALL
ROCKLAND, MA 02370

January 13, 2010

In attendance at the January 13, 2010 Finance Committee meeting were Dolores Baronas, Julie Shaffer, Joe Gambon, Ian Curran, Bill Allen, Rachel Gear, John Ellard, Rich Penney, Caryn Stevens and Paula Ferguson. Bob MacDonald was absent.

The meeting was brought to order at 6:33 pm. by Chairman John Ellard.

A motion was made by Bill Allen, seconded by Ian Curran to accept the minutes from January 7, 2010 and December 16, 2009. A unanimous vote was taken.

Peter Ewell from the Park Department was present to discuss his budget and answer all questions. With his 2 ½% increase from the over-ride, he has increased sundries and maintenance. He has turned off the lights at the track on Reed Street with a savings of \$900.00. His 1996 tractor is doing OK. He is looking at a new truck thanks to money from A.W. Perry. His maintenance account includes services such as repairs to equipment, grass seed, field paint, chalk, etc. The leagues help out immensely with these costs so that the fields are maintained for sports. His sundry items include electricity and telephone.

Discussion was made regarding the Vice Chair position as Bob MacDonald is ill. A letter will be requested from him to step down as Vice Chair and perhaps a leave of absense can be given until he is better. Paul Cusick will be contacting John Ellard.

Paula mentioned that the Ethics Certification needs to be done on line and all certificates from all memebbers will be brought to the next meeting for her to give to the Town Clerk.

The Fire Chief sent an e.mail to Paula with information regarding a financing program for additional trucks. Rich Penney is currently looking into leasing benefits from GE Fleet and Enterprise Leasing to see the financial benefits and possible savings for the town. He will bring additional information in a few weeks.

A discussion was done on trying to find ways to increase the stabilization account with money from meal and food tax designating it only to the stabilization account. Perhaps having a Special Stabiliation Account to be spent on specific items. Also there seems to be a need for grant writers to also obtain additional money for the town. John Ellard brought up a suggestion for Fiscal Guidelines and/or other suggestions to present to the Board of Selectmen. This will be discussed further at our next meeting.

Rich Penney discussed the progress on the school project. So far there are 15 RFP contractor bids received. On the February 3, 2010 meeting, they will go through them and narrow it down to five. They are starting to move forward and hope to have the Middle School completed September, 2012 and the High School completed February, 2013.

Paula and John will get together to write up something for the Annual Town Report.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 27, 2010 6:30 at the lower conference room where the library, school and highway departments will present their budgets. The meetings were also set for February which will be February 10 and February 24, 2010.

A motion was made by Rich Penney and seconded by Bill Allen to adjourn. A unanimous vote was taken. The meeting concluded at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paula Ferguson
Secretary
Rockland Finance Committee